

Remarks

Reconsideration and withdrawal of the objection and rejections set forth in the above-mentioned Official Action in view of the foregoing amendments and the following remarks are respectfully requested.

Claims 1 and 3-7 are now pending in the application, with Claim 1 being independent. Claim 2 has been cancelled without prejudice. Claims 1 and 3-6 have been amended and Claim 7 has been added herein.

Applicants note with appreciation the indication that Claim 4 recites allowable subject matter. This claim was objected to for being dependent upon a rejected base claim. However, this claim will not be rewritten in independent form at this time because independent Claim 1 is believed to be allowable for the reasons discussed below.

Claim 5 was rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 112, second paragraph, as allegedly being indefinite. Without conceding the propriety of this rejection, Applicants have reworded the language questioned by the Examiner. Reconsideration and withdrawal of the § 112, second paragraph, rejection are requested.

Claims 1-3, 5 and 6 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103 as being unpatentable over U.S. Patent No. 6,629,787 (Lee et al.) in view of U.S. Patent No. 6,137,508 (Gaarder). This rejection is respectfully traversed.

As is recited in independent Claim 1, the present invention relates to a recording apparatus including a carriage, a sensor, a code strip, a guide shaft, and a lifting mechanism. The carriage carries a recording head thereon and scans along a recording material. The sensor is disposed on the carriage and detects a scanning position of the

carriage. The code strip is to be read by the sensor. The guide shaft provides a guide for the scanning of the carriage. The lifting mechanism moves the guide shaft up and down to thereby change a height position of the carriage. When the guide shaft is moved up and down, the carriage makes contact with a lower end portion of the code strip to thereby move the code strip up and down.

With the above arrangement, because the carriage makes contact with a lower end portion of the coach strip to move it up and down, the coach strip can be moved according to a position of the sensor disposed on the carriage without a complicated mechanism.

In Lee et al., shaft turning means 140 can selectively turn bushing members 121 in first or second directions, to thereby selectively raise or lower head assembly 130 to increase or decrease head gap G. Head gap detecting sensor 40 moves with the head assembly for measuring the head gap G. The sensor in Lee et al. is not for detecting a scanning position of the carriage, as is recited in independent Claim 1. Nor does Lee et al. disclose or suggest that when the guide shaft is moved up and down, the carriage makes contact with a lower end portion of a code strip to thereby move the code strip up and down, as is also recited in independent Claim 1.

Thus, Lee et al. fails to disclose or suggest important features of the present invention recited in independent Claim 1.

Gaarder describes an optical position reader or encoder 110 mounted on a printhead carriage. Encoder 110 includes a vertically extending slot 112 through which an elongated optical position strip passes during movement of the carriage relative to the

encoder strip. However, Gaarder also does not disclose or suggest that when a guide shaft is moved up and down, the carriage makes contact with a lower end of the code strip to thereby move the code strip up and down, as is also recited in independent Claim 1.

Thus, Gaarder fails to remedy the deficiencies of Lee et al. noted above with respect to independent Claim 1.

Therefore, independent Claim 1 is patentable over the citations of record. Reconsideration and withdrawal of the § 103 rejection are respectfully requested.

For the foregoing reasons, Applicants respectfully submit that the present invention is patentably defined by independent Claim 1. Dependent Claims 3-7 are also allowable, in their own right, for defining features of the present invention in addition to those recited in their respective independent claims. Individual consideration of the dependent claims is requested.

Applicants submit that the present application is in condition for allowance. Favorable reconsideration, withdrawal of the rejections set forth in the above-noted Office Action, and an early Notice of Allowability are requested.

Applicants' undersigned attorney may be reached in our Washington, D.C. office by telephone at (202) 530-1010. All correspondence should continue to be directed to our below-listed address.

Respectfully submitted,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Mark A. Williamson', written over a horizontal line.

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